

THE FLIGHT JACKET

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3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Miramar

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2011 MCAS Miramar Air Show Special Edition

Air station takes flight Salutes San Diego

More than half a million spectators attend
annual aerial spectacle over Miramar



New look & interactive format, same quality coverage

2011 MCAS Miramar Air Show Edition



Golden Knights, Leap Frogs, ignite nighttime skies

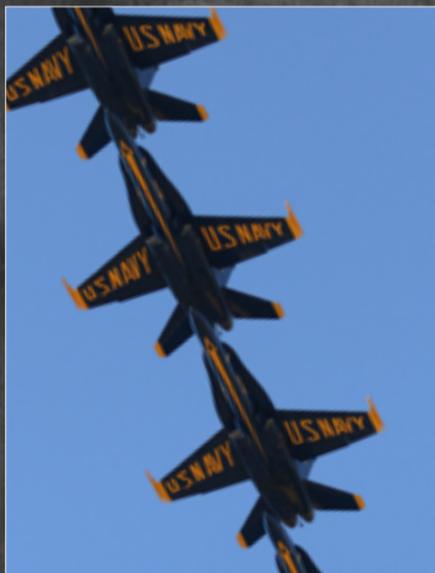
The United States Navy's Leap Frogs, and the Army's Golden Knights performed for over hundreds of thousands of spectators during both the day and night at the 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Air Show.

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05

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Blue Angels thrill crowds with precision maneuvers

The United States Navy's flight demonstration team, the Blue Angels, made their annual visit to the air station to perform for approximately 750,000 spectators.

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07

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MAGTF demonstration showcases Corps' capabilities

Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton joined with Marines from MCAS Miramar to demonstrate the capabilities of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force during the air station's 2011 air show. The performance included MV-22 Ospreys, AV-8B Harriers, CH-53E Super Stallions and more.

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09

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Maj. Gen. Andrew O'Donnell Jr.
Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



Col. Frank A. Richie
Commanding Officer
MCAS Miramar

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office. Comments or questions should be directed to 858-577-6000.

A Salute To San Diego Birthplace of Naval Aviation

1911

2011

Story by

Pfc. Kevin Crist

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar hosted the 56th annual Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show, themed "A Salute to San Diego: Birthplace of Naval Aviation 1911-2011," on the flight line Sept. 30 through Oct. 2.

The Blue Angels, who have been the stars of the air show since the 1940s, and Fat Albert Airlines, which joined the team in 1970, returned this year as one of the popular featured performances.

Another highlight of the show was the "United States Navy Legacy Flight," which involved today's F/A-18 Super Hornet flying in close formation with a Grumman F-6F Hellcat, one of the primary Navy fighting aircraft in World War II.

"Aviation in the Marine Corps goes back to 1912 when Lt. Col. Alfred A. Cunningham was the first Marine aviator," said retired Lt. Col. Jay Bibler, a retired Marine pilot. "Naval aviation was one year prior to that, and it is absolutely amazing to see what has been done with modern day aircraft and I was a tiny piece of that history back about 25 years ago when I flew F-4B Phantoms."

The show also featured more than 100 military and civilian aircraft and vehicle displays, including many historic aircraft restored by the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum.

Bibler explained that he thinks all of the different aircraft throughout history being at the air show was inspiring and likes



to share his experiences with young, aspiring future military pilots. The Marine Air-Ground Task Force demonstration was another show highlight, which involved a simulated combat assault using different aircraft, including F/A-18 Super Hornets and AV-8B Harriers, helicopter-borne Marines rappelling, and a ground force comprised of 11th Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Marines disembarking two MV-22B Ospreys.

"I had a lot of fun doing the MAGTF demonstration, and I know the crowd loved us," said Cpl. Ryan Thede, a radar operator with the Counter-Battery Radar section of 11th Marine Regiment, 1st MEF, and a Waterloo, Iowa, native. "It's cool that we put all of this together and allow people to see what we do."

The U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team and the "Shockwave" jet truck were two of several Saturday night twilight show performances during the three day event.

The twilight show also featured a firework display and ended the night with an incredible, intense inferno referred to as the "Great Wall of Fire." The heat from this flame could be felt by the enthralled crowd as the MCAS Miramar Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team provided the special explosives effects.

MCAS Miramar has a long, rich history with the birthplace of naval aviation and is scheduled to continue this look into aviation history for years to come.



Major David N. Payne, operations officer for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 and a Montgomery City, Mo., native, speaks to a group of children about a CH-53E Super Stallion during the annual Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show Sept. 30 (photo by Lance Cpl. Lisa DiSalvo).



A UH-1Y Huey provides a view of the Blue Angels as they wait to fly at the 2011 Miramar Air Show aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Sept. 30.



Cpl. Lisa Tourtelot

Lance Cpl. Erik J. Potgieter, a light armored vehicle crewman with 4th Light Armored Vehicle Reconnaissance Battalion and a Grenada, West Indies, native, helps children climb down from an LAV-25AZ during the annual Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show Sept. 30 (photo by Lance Cpl. Lisa DiSalvo).



Cpl. Alexandra Vazquez



Lance Cpl. Lisa DiSalvo

Marines, civilians get acquainted at air show

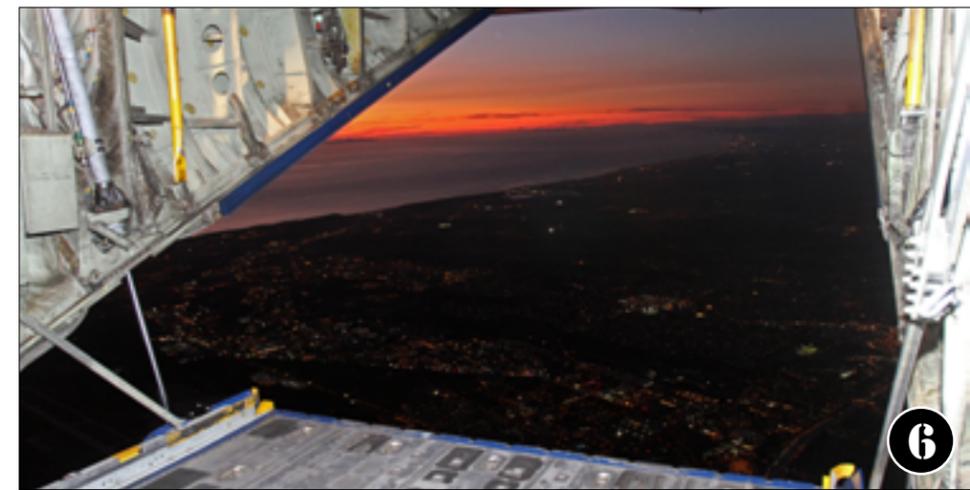
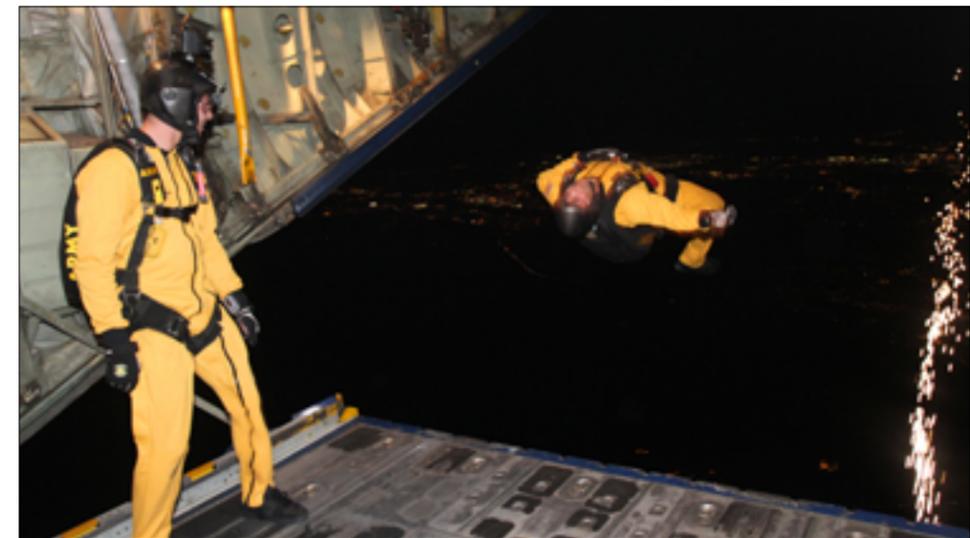
Sgt. Justin Martinez



Members of the Leap Frogs, the Navy's parachute team, leap from Fat Albert, a Marine KC-130J Hercules with the Navy's Blue Angels, during a performance for the 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show aboard MCAS Miramar, Oct. 1. During free fall jumps the parachute team can reach 120 mph (photos by Cpl. Alexandra Vazquez).



Golden Knights take night time leap of faith



Sgt. Thomas Pryjda, a member of the Golden Knights, the Army's parachute team, smiles before leaping from Fat Albert, a Marine KC-130J Hercules with the Navy's Blue Angels, during a performance for the 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show aboard MCAS Miramar, Oct. 1. The Gold Team is led by Sgt. 1st Class John Berentis.

The Blue Angels, the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, perform for the audience of the 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show aboard MCAS Miramar, Oct. 1. The Blue Angels performed all three days of the air show (photos by Cpl. Alexandra Vazquez).



United States Navy's flight demonstration team
Blue Angels



Flying into yesteryear

Story by

Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo

Although the aerial performances enticed guests to the 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show, the increased number of vintage aircraft brought to celebrate the centennial of naval aviation also lured in visitors ages eight to eighty.

Embodying the theme, "Salute to San Diego: Birthplace of Naval Aviation," this year's air show marked the one-hundredth anniversary of naval aviation and featured more than 100 aircraft from Naval and Marine Corps aviation history.

Heritage aircraft, both helicopters and planes, were brought in from various locations along the west coast. Seventeen of these aircraft came from The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, which is located at the north side of MCAS Miramar.

"We normally only bring out maybe five or six," said Walt Nicoll, a museum volunteer and retired Navy fire control man. "But thanks to this being the centennial we were allowed to show 17 aircraft from our collection this year including a [TO-1/TV-1 Shooting Star], one of the Navy's very first fighters."

Multiple generations of spectators could be seen sitting in the static displays and asking questions to the service members, former military and museum experts attending and working the air show.

"I came out here with my grandpa who used to be a major in the Marine Corps," said Katrina NeeDels, age 8. "I want to be a pilot one day and I like looking at all the things people used to fly. My favorites are the old helicopters with the straps across your chest."

In drawing out various military and former military spectators, the air show served as a way for some of those who have served their coun-

try to reunite.

Retired Marine Corps Col. John Telles Jr. and former Lance Cpl. Lou Castellano, a TA-4J Skyhawk mechanic, not only served together but have known each other since the 1st grade. The two Marines came across each other while viewing the aircraft they both formerly worked with at the museum's display.

The air show gives those who no longer wear the uniform but will always be part of "the brotherhood" of the Marine Corps a chance to meet and bond over the memories associated with aircraft they "have come to love" explains Telles.

Spectators from several countries were also in attendance scouring through the approximate one-mile stretch of aviation history.

Guests from various countries including Canada and Mexico photographed the numerous planes and helicopters parked along the flight line, each having their own reason.

One guest, Don Kotelko, a former member of the Canadian Air Force, photographed nearly 300 images for his personal collection of historic aircraft.

"I spend all my vacation time visiting air shows, but I have come to Miramar's the most," said Kotelko. "I love to fly the older stuff, and the newer stuff excites me. This being such a big show lets me see a lot of what I love. The idea of aircraft and their history of progression fascinates me."

Whether the heritage aircraft featured from the past 100 years of naval aviation on display served to help in honoring the tradition of military aviation, reunite guests or inspire aeronautic hopefuls, it is clear that the historic display of the 2011 MCAS Miramar Air Show has drawn in a significant portion of the approximately 750,000 attending guests over the three-day event.



A Ryan PT-22 prepares for flight aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Sept. 29. Dozens of aircraft pilots spent the days prior to the annual 2011 MCAS Miramar Air Show making final preparations and moving aircraft into place (photo by Sgt Justin Martinez).



A Cessna 195 is parked along the flight line for guests to view Oct. 1 during the 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show. This year's air show theme was "A Salute to San Diego: Birthplace of Naval Aviation." More than 100 military and civilian aircraft were set up for guests to view along the approximately one mile long span of Naval and Marine Corps Aviation history on display (photo by Sgt Justin Martinez).

Marine Air Ground Task Force Demonstration displays Corps' far-reaching capabilities



Video By Sgt. W. ZachGriffith

Click the above image to view video footage from the MAGTF demonstration. If the video does not load click [HERE](#) to view the it on YouTube.



A Marine with 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, kneels as an explosion ignites in the distance during the 2011 Miramar Air Show aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Oct. 1. The Marines were participating in the popular Marine Air-Ground Task Force demonstration.

Pfc. Kevin Crist



A CH-53E Super Stallion displays its ability to haul heavy equipment during the Marine Air Ground Task Force demonstration at the 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., Oct. 1. More than a dozen aircraft participated in the demonstration of Marine Corps capabilities at the three-day event.

Sgt. Justin Martinez

Marines aboard an M1-A1 Abrams tank greet the crowds at the 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., Oct. 1. The Marine Air-Ground Task Force demonstration featured more than a dozen aircraft, as well as mechanized ground forces.



Sgt. Justin Martinez

Flight Jacket reader-submitted photos



Photo by Cpl. Jamean Berry



Photo by Cpl. Jamean Berry

The Great Wall of Fire Ignites the flightline



Explosive ordnance Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar ignite the 'Great Wall of Fire' Oct. 1. The wall of fire is the highlight of the Twilight Show portion of the 2011 MCAS Miramar Air Show. The air station currently holds the world record for the largest wall of fire.

Photo by Cpl. Jamean Berry

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